



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BETH MEYERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2016

CONTACT: Rep. Beth Meyers

1-888-534-0074

Alzheimer's and Dementia Taskforce Bills Pass Assembly

MADISON – Today the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a total of 10 bills which were introduced from the Speaker's Taskforce on Alzheimer's and Dementia. This package of bills includes a proposal co-authored by Representative Beth Meyers and her colleagues which will provide about \$407,000 to hire dementia specialists in counties with under 150,000 residents. It also will provide about \$93,000 to hire a state professional tasked with educating employers about dementia issues in the workplace, both involving employees and family members of employees.

"I'm honored to work in a bi-partisan fashion with my colleagues on this important issue that affects many individuals and families," said Rep. Meyers.

Additionally, the legislative package includes the following policy initiatives that will invest \$1 million in respite care, provide additional education to caregivers and employers about Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as increasing dementia training for mobile crisis teams. The legislative package also includes proposals to spend \$50,000 for virtual dementia tours, in which participants wear eye goggles to simulate dementia effects, and provide the University of Wisconsin-Madison an additional \$50,000 for Alzheimer's research.

The legislation was developed using the input from experts, caregivers, state officials and community members, many of who attended the six bipartisan task force hearings held around the state. Representative Meyers also held her own in-district listening sessions this past year to hear directly from her constituents on this issue.

"I will continue to do all I can to protect Northern Wisconsin's senior population and this package of bills to address Alzheimer's and Dementia is a step in the right direction. I held five listening sessions myself on this topic and spent hours listening to concerned residents of the 74th Assembly District, and I am pleased that I was able to work on their behalf and have this package come to fruition," said Meyers.

